

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15
NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/077 W

-----101835Z 119782 /43

O P 101807Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

UNCLAS USUN 1458

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S AFRICA TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST PAPERS AND TV PROGRAMS IN REPORTING THE DEPARTURE
OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG GAVE BROAD OUTLINES OF TRIP, UNDER-
SCORING THAT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA STILL IN DOUBT AND THAT
THE SAG IS EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS DECISION MAY 10 OR 11. ABC
GOOD MORNING AMERICA REPORTS THAT "SPECULATION IN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN PRESS IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW YOUNG
TO ENTER THE COUNTRY, OR THAT THE DECISION WILL HAVE TO WAIT
UNTIL THE MONDALE/VORSTER MEETING."

3. FOCAL POINT, HOWEVER, OF KITTY TELTSCH'S PAGE 3 NYTIMES
STORY IS THAT YOUNG'S TRIP "AIMS IN PART AT IMPROVING RELATIONS
WITH NIGERIA." WRITING THAT NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ARE
KNOWN TO BE DISCUSSING SETTING UP A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMIS-
SION TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTORS AND INCREASE
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TRADE, TELTSCH QUOTES AN UNNAMED U.S. OFFICIAL FAMILIAR
WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EFFORTS TO IMPRESS ON CONGRESS
AND THE USG THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF NIGERIA AS BLACK AFRICA'S
MOST POPULOUS AND RICHEST COUNTRY AS SAYING 'THE STAKES ARE
HIGH ON THIS ONE.' BASHIR BORODO, ECONOMIC MINISTER
OF THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY, ACCORDING TO TELTSCH, CONFIRMED
THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ARE

GOING ON 'AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL' WHICH MEANS THAT THEY INVOLVE LIEUT. GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO. "THE PROPOSED JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF THE TRADE COMMISSIONS THE UNITED STATES HAS WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA," STATES THE NYTIMES STORY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT FOR 14 MONTHS AID HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE NIGERIANS ON SUCH PROJECTS AS A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN PREPARATION FOR MOVING LAGOS, THE CAPITAL CITY, TO ANOTHER SITE AND THAT ACCORDING TO WILLIAM G. LYLES, THE COORDINATOR FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES, AID WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA.

4. AP STORY (BY SCHMEMANN) DATELINED ABIDJAN LEADS WITH YOUNG'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S EVOLVING AFRICA POLICY STRESSES 'DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD, AND NOT WARFARE AND DESTRUCTION.'" SCHMEMANN WRITES TO DEMONSTRATE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER AFRICA YOUNG CITED THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT; THE RECENT U.S.-LED MEETING OF FIVE WESTERN NATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA, AND THE 'POSITIVE BUT RESTRAINED APPROACH WE TOOK IN ZAIRE.' AP FURTHER QUOTES YOUNG 'IT'S A WHOLE CHANGE OF STYLE WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE A CHANGE OF POLICY. I THINK WE HAVE BEGUN A POLICY THAT WILL PERMIT US TO WORK WITH AFRICA AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES.' SCHMEMANN CONCLUDES THAT YOUNG APPEARS "UNDISTURBED BY THE FLAP" RAISED ABOUT HIS TRIP TO JOHANNESBURG AND THAT "OBSERVERS SPECULATED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS WHETHER IT INTENDED TO LET YOUNG IN

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UNTIL AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER R. F. BOTHA'S ELECTION RESULT BECOMES KNOWN ON WEDNESDAY. BOTHA TOOK THE LEAD IN DENOUNCING YOUNG'S PROPOSED VISIT, AND SOME SPECULATED THAT HIS CHIEF MOTIVE WAS TO ATTRACT CONSERVATIVE VOTES."

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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